

SIN. 10/035,765  
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Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A method for controlling exposure time in a digital image capture device comprising the steps of:

when a user-controlled exposure mode is selected and a start exposure signal is asserted,      a) capturing a first image and assigning the first image to a running total image;  
b) displaying the running total image;  
c) capturing a next image;  
d) adding the next image to the running total image;  
e) displaying the running total image; and  
f) repeating steps (c) to (e) until a terminate exposure signal is asserted.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image capture device include an image sensor; wherein the step of capturing the first image includes the steps of

a\_1) exposing the image sensor to light;  
a\_2) reading out an analog value from the image sensor; and  
a\_3) converting the analog value to a corresponding digital value; and  
wherein the step of capturing the next image includes the steps of  
c\_1) exposing the image sensor to light;  
c\_2) reading out an analog value from the image sensor; and  
c\_3) converting the analog value to a corresponding digital value.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image capture device includes a display; and wherein the step of displaying the running total image includes displaying the running total image on the display.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

Page 2 of 13

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SIN. 10/035,765  
Norman C. Pyle  
Atty Dkt 10011327-1

transferring a final image to a storage media.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the storage media is one of a removable storage media, volatile memory, and non-volatile memory.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
wherein the asserted terminate exposure signal is a de-asserted start exposure signal; and  
wherein the start exposure signal is asserted and de-asserted by employing a cable release.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of asserting the start exposure signal includes the step of asserting the start exposure signal by employ-a employing-a remote control; and wherein the step of asserting the terminate exposure signal includes the step of asserting the terminate exposure signal by employing a remote control.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the remote control utilizes one of an infrared link, a radio frequency link, and an audio link.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the digital image capture device is a digital camera.

10. (original) A digital image capture device that has a user-controlled exposure mode comprising:  
a) a display for displaying images; and  
b) a user-controlled exposure mechanism coupled to the display for receiving a start exposure signal and a terminate exposure signal, responsive to the start exposure signal for beginning an exposure, for providing visual

S.N. 10/035,765  
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Atty Dkt 10011327-1

feedback during the exposure through the display, and responsive to a terminate exposure signal for terminating the exposure.

11. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 10 further comprising:  
an enable signal for enabling the user-controlled exposure mechanism and setting the digital camera into a user-controlled exposure mode.

12. (currently amended) The digital image capture device of claim 10 claim 11 further comprising:

a first button for use by a user to assert the start exposure signal and to assert the terminate exposure signal; and  
a second button for use by a user to assert the enable signal.

13. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 12 further comprising a separate button for use by a user to assert the terminate exposure signal.

14. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 10 wherein the user-controlled exposure mechanism includes:

a visual feedback module for providing visual feedback during the exposure through the display.

15. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 10 wherein the digital image capture device is a digital camera.

16. (original) A digital image capture device that has a user-controlled exposure mode comprising:

a) means for displaying images; and  
b) user-controlled exposure means coupled to the display for receiving a start exposure signal and a terminate exposure signal, responsive to the start exposure signal for beginning an exposure, for providing immediate

S:N. 10/035,765  
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Atty Dkt 10011327-1

visual feedback during the exposure through the display, and responsive to a terminate exposure signal for terminating the exposure.

17. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 16 further comprising:  
an enable signal for enabling the user-controlled exposure mechanism and setting the digital camera into a user-controlled exposure mode.

18. (currently amended) The digital image capture device of claim 16 further comprising:

- c) first means for use by a user to assert a start exposure signal;
- d) second means for use by a user to assert a terminate exposure signal; and
- e) third means for use by a user to set the digital camera digital image capture device into the user-controlled exposure mode.

19. (currently amended) The ~~digital camera~~ digital image capture device of claim 18 wherein the first means and the second means are a single button.

20. (currently amended) The ~~digital camera~~ digital image capture device of claim 16 wherein the user-controlled exposure means includes:

a visual feedback means for providing visual feedback during the exposure through the display.